

MAR 24 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THROUGH: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)
SUBJECT: U. S. Prisoners of War Remaining in
Communist Custody.
REFERENCES:

- a. Memo fm C/S, USAF, dtd 16 Mar '54,
Subj. as above.
- b. Memo fm Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
D/A, dtd 14 Aug '53, Subj. "Post
Korean Armistice Planning for Covert,
Clandestine, and Related Activities."

1. Reference a. contains a request from Chief of Staff,
USAF that CIA undertake to locate, identify, and recover U.S.
Prisoners of War still in Communist custody.

2. This request is in most respects identical with
reference b., which was received last August from the Assistant
Chief of Staff, G-2, D/A.

3. The FI Staff has had a long standing requirement for
information of this type, but so far has not obtained any
worthwhile intelligence in this regard.

4. It is believed, as you are no doubt aware, that CIA
has little or no operational capability to recover personnel
from those areas in which POW's are being held in Manchuria,
China, or the Soviet Union. In almost all such areas the
priority of CIA effort is on the collection of early warning
and order of battle information.

5. It is the opinion of this Staff that this Agency has no
significant capabilities along the lines requested by the USAF.

6. It is therefore recommended that you sign the attached
memorandum to Chief of Staff, USAF.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO SUBJECT IN CLASS.
IN COLD CASE
CLASSIFICATION DATE 07-08-08
KODAK SAFETY FILM
ABSTRACT NUMBER
DATE: 17 MAR 1981 REVIEWER:

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~~SECRET~~

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Staff
United States Air Force

SUBJECT: United States Prisoners of War Remaining
in Communist Custody After Termination of
Exchange of Prisoners Under Korean
Armistice Agreement Terms.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum dated 16 March 1954 on the above subject, asking Central Intelligence Agency to take action to locate, identify and recover U.S. POW's in Communist custody.
2. I agree with you fully that any accomplishment in this field would unquestionably have a salutary effect upon morale and would be of significant value in our national psychological program.
3. This Agency has had a continuing requirement for the development of information on the location of U.S. POW's. Any intelligence developed on this subject will be discussed promptly with Headquarters, United States Air Force. CIA then will consider in each case what steps, if any, can be taken to effect the release of the POW's involved. The inherent operational difficulties which would surround such an undertaking are clearly apparent, I am sure, to you.
4. The undertaking of any such action is predicated upon the availability of adequate operational intelligence. This agency does not have at the present time such adequate operational intelligence on which to base plans for liberating POW's under Communist control. Nor is it anticipated

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that CIA will have significant capabilities along these lines as long as operating conditions continue to follow the present pattern.

5. In compliance with your request, CIA will continue to endeavor to develop the required intelligence on POW's in Communist hands and will maintain appropriate contact with your headquarters on this subject.

Rewritten

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

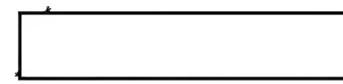
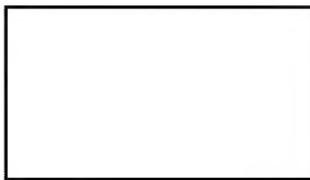
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24 March 1954

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v 9 May

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Attachment: 1 - as stated in
par. 6 above

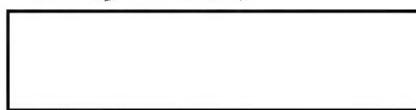
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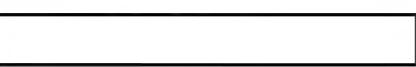
Chief, FE Div.

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23 March 1954

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